

# DOWNEAST BROADBAND

Maine's First Municipal Broadband Utility

<http://www.downeastbroadband.com>

[Daniel.Sullivan@downeastbroadband.com](mailto:Daniel.Sullivan@downeastbroadband.com)

# Financials:

- ❖ Paid for by subscribers of the broadband service
- ❖ Citizen's taxes not raised. Loans have been secured by each town
- ❖ Estimated payback 20 years on this 100-year investment
- ❖ Revenues continue after loan payback

# The beginning.....

- ❖ Created the Downeast Economic Development Board - 2015
- ❖ Gathered ideas and gauged interest in economic development
- ❖ Decided to focus on improving broadband

# The Need

- ❖ High Speed Symmetrical Broadband Internet access did not exist in Calais and Baileyville
- ❖ Frustration from the business community and the citizens of both Calais and Baileyville fueled the desire to do something to fix the problem
- ❖ Existing Internet Service Providers were not interested in improving their networks to address the needs of our communities

# Our Solution. Timeline:

- ❖ 2016 Met with existing Internet Service Providers
- ❖ July 2016 Conducted a feasibility study
- ❖ June 2017 Commissioned a detailed cost analysis to build the network
- ❖ August 2017 Calais and Baileyville respective Town Councils and City Representatives voted overwhelmingly to build the network
- ❖ August 2017 Calais and Baileyville signed an inter-local agreement forming the State's first and only district municipal utility
- ❖ August 2017 Downeast Broadband Utility was officially formed. DBU is a registered Non-Profit Entity
- ❖ August 2017 Requests for Proposals sent to banks to secure funding. Four local banks were eager to help.

# Off to the races:

- ❖ 2018 RFP's were sent out and a contractor selected. Construction begins
- ❖ Network completion took 24 months. Covid pandemic had some but not much impact on this timeline.
- ❖ June 2020 Network operational and customers signing up
- ❖ August 2020 Alexander votes to join DBU. Estimating end of 2021 for network completion
- ❖ November 2021 Indian Township joins DBU. Estimated network completion 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022

# What we built:

- ❖ Municipally owned dark fiber open access network
- ❖ A dedicated single fiber connection to every subscriber
- ❖ Open to all Internet Service Providers
- ❖ A capital asset owned by the citizens of Calais, Baileyville, Alexander & Indian Township

# History Repeating Itself

- ❖ In the 1800's the U.S. government wisely invested in the cross-country railroad system
- ❖ In the 1930's the U.S. stepped up and invested again in the Rural Electrification Act that brought electricity to every corner of America
- ❖ In the 1950's Dwight D. Eisenhower wisely invested and completed the Interstate Highway System
- ❖ Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century it is time for the U.S. to invest in High Speed Symmetrical Fiber Broadband Internet
- ❖ Downeast Broadband has demonstrated future proof blazingly fast broadband is not only possible but it's here. Now is the time for it to be everywhere.



1	Liechtenstein	199.28	39.78
2	Hong Kong	112.32	91.40
3	Denmark	107.78	66.02
4	Switzerland	93.60	41.44
5	Netherlands	93.48	27.58
6	Sweden	91.36	86.04
7	Iceland	80.19	24.30
8	Finland	79.40	18.39
9	Andorra	76.67	56.20
10	Bermuda	74.21	19.27
11	San Marino	61.89	9.76
12	Norway	58.95	49.73
13	United States	54.99	10.45
14	New Zealand	52.86	19.85







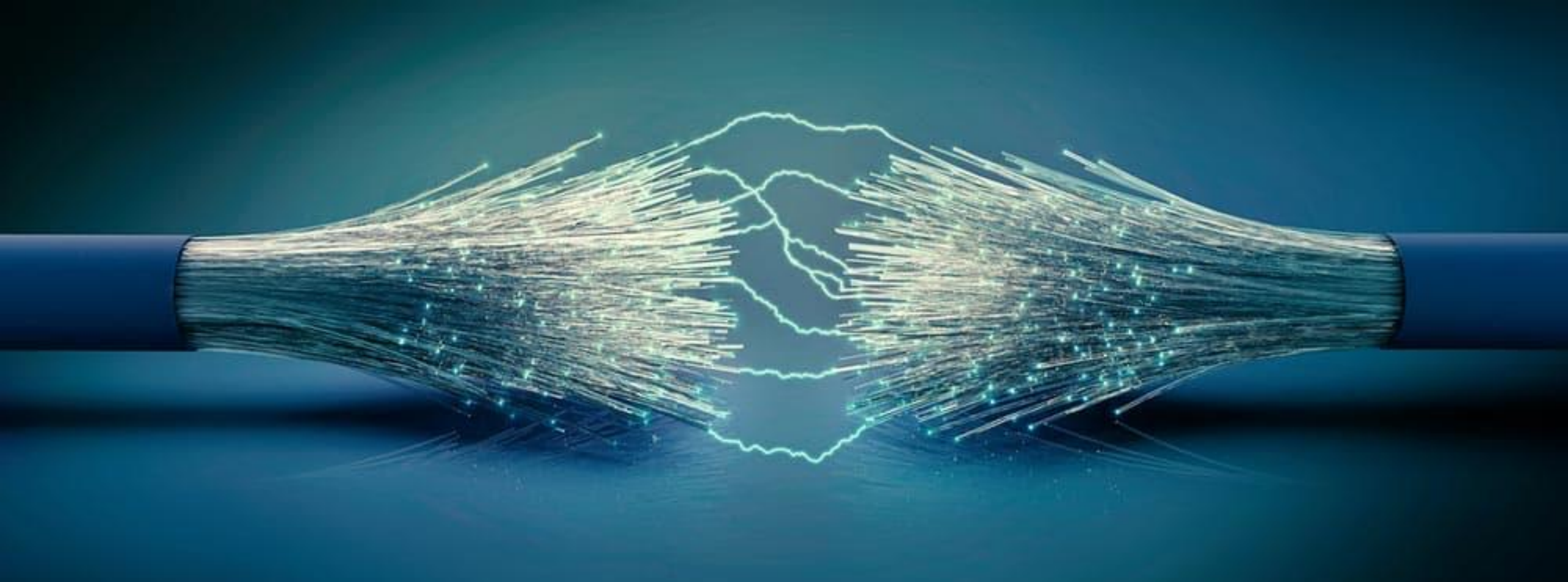






# Resources and Ideas

- ❖ ARPA funds: Every town and County received Federal Dollars (your dollars) specifically for infrastructure such as water, sewer and broadband as well as small business relief for those affected by Covid. Dollars are very narrowly focused.
- ❖ Washington County will receive \$6,095,003.00 million dollars in ARPA funds. County commissioners will decide where those funds go. Attend their meetings. Have your voice heard.
  - Commissioner Chris Gardner (Chair) [commissionergardner@washingtoncountymaine.com](mailto:commissionergardner@washingtoncountymaine.com)
  - Commissioner Vinton Cassidy [commissionercassidy@washingtoncountymaine.com](mailto:commissionercassidy@washingtoncountymaine.com)
  - Commissioner John Crowley [commissionercrowley@washingtoncountymaine.com](mailto:commissionercrowley@washingtoncountymaine.com)
- ❖ ConnectME Authority <http://www.maine.gov/ConnectME> Planning & Infrastructure grant opportunities are available now. Deadline to apply March 20, 2022. 16 million available this round. (10 million came from Maine Connectivity Authority)
- ❖ Maine Connectivity Authority <https://www.maineconnectivity.org/> Next meeting January 28, 2022. Going forward the MCA will be allocating hundreds of millions of dollars toward broadband.



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